

# EAST BATON ROUGE



# PARISH

*“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”*

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



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# East Baton Rouge Parish

## History<sup>1</sup>

Created on December 22, 1810, this area was settled by the French and ceded to Great Britain under the Treaty of Paris in 1763. It was captured by Galvez in 1779. In 1807, under the rule of Spain, it was claimed that this parish, together with others in what is now referred to as the Florida Parishes, was still under the rule of Spain and not included in the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. The parishes in question rebelled against Spain and formed the West Florida Republic. This was immediately taken over by Governor Claiborne for the United States. During this early history, eight flags flew over the area.

In 1772, Penicaut, in his book on Louisiana, *Relation*, wrote, "Five leagues above le Manchac we found very high banks, which are called bluffs in that country, and the savage tongue Istrouma which signifies Baton Rouge (Red Stick) because there is in this place a reddened post, which the savages have placed to mark the division of the lands of the two Indian nations, that of the Bayougoulas from which we came and the other about 30 leagues higher than Baton Rouge, called the Oumas." Some historians believe the red stick was a tall red cypress tree stripped of its bark.

Today, with the city of Baton Rouge the dominant center of business, culture, education, and finance, the parish looks forward to more and more prosperity.

## Culture and Recreation<sup>3</sup>

Baton Rouge, Louisiana's state capital, is where visitors can hear the state's colorful history told and retold. In Baton Rouge, you can see for miles along the Mississippi River from the top of the Capitol, travel back in time at Magnolia Mound or Rural Life Museum, relive WWII Navy life aboard the U.S.S. Kidd and Nautical History Center and tour a mysterious swamp. At the old State Capitol, see the gun some say was used to shoot Huey Long. In Plantation Country, Baton Rouge is the center for seeing more than 20 elegantly restored antebellum homes.

**Parish Seat<sup>1</sup>** ..... Baton Rouge<sup>1</sup>

**Major Cities** (over 5,000 population)<sup>2</sup>

Baton Rouge

1990 ..... 219,531

1997 (estimate) ..... 231,276



Baker	
1990 .....	13,233
1997 (estimate) .....	13,483
Merridale CDP*	
1990 .....	10,395
1997 (estimate) .....	N/A
Zachary	
1990 .....	9,036
1997 (estimate) .....	10,923

\*Census Designated Place

### Parish Population<sup>2</sup>

1990 .....	380,105
1997 (estimate) .....	396,331

### Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)<sup>6</sup>

White .....	61%
African American .....	37%
Other .....	2%
Male .....	48%
Female .....	52%
Population age 0-4 .....	7%
Population age 65 & over .....	9%

### Geography and Statistics<sup>2</sup>

Average elevation .....	19 ft.
Land area in square miles .....	455.7
Water area in square miles <sup>4</sup> .....	14.9

### Climate<sup>2</sup>

Average temperatures	
Annual .....	70°
January .....	58°
July .....	80°
Annual average rainfall .....	77.6 in.

### Labor Force (1995)<sup>1</sup>

Civilian .....	202,800
Employed .....	191,600
Unemployed .....	11,200
Unemployment .....	5.5%

### Educational Attainment (1990)<sup>7</sup>

Less than 5th grade	2.1%
High school graduate or higher	80.5%
Some college or higher	52.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	27.5%

### Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees<sup>2</sup>

#### Private Employers

Harmony Corporation (Construction)	6,500
Turner Industries (Industrial Services)	3,500
International Maintenance (Intn'l Maintenance)	3,394

#### Public Employers

East Baton Rouge Parish School Board (Education)	7,653
Louisiana State University (Education)	4,787
City-Parish Government (Government)	3,815

### Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) <sup>7</sup>	17.5%
Children under age 18 in poverty <sup>7</sup>	26.2%
Per capita income (1996) <sup>8</sup>	\$23,077



### References

- <sup>1</sup> Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- <sup>2</sup> Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://ded.state.la.us>
- <sup>3</sup> Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- <sup>5</sup> State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- <sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>

## Agriculture<sup>1</sup>

Soybeans, sugarcane, vegetable farming, beef cattle and dairy farming.

## Colleges/Universities<sup>2</sup>

(within one hour commute)

*Baton Rouge*

Louisiana State University

Southern University

## Public Libraries<sup>5</sup> ..... 13



### Region 1

Jefferson  
Orleans  
Plaquemines  
St. Bernard

### Region 2

Ascension  
East Baton Rouge  
East Feliciana  
Iberville  
Pointe Coupee  
West Baton Rouge  
West Feliciana

### Region 3

Assumption  
Lafourche  
St. Charles  
St. James  
St. John  
St. Mary  
Terrebonne

### Region 4

Acadia  
Evangeline  
Iberia  
Lafayette  
St. Landry  
St. Martin  
Vermillion

### Region 5

Allen  
Beauregard  
Calcasieu  
Cameron  
Jefferson Davis

### Region 6

Avoyelles  
Catahoula  
Concordia  
Grant  
LaSalle  
Rapides  
Vernon  
Winn

### Region 7

Bienville  
Bossier  
Caddo  
Claiborne  
DeSoto  
Natchitoches  
Red River  
Sabine  
Webster

### Region 8

Caldwell  
East Carroll  
Franklin  
Jackson  
Lincoln  
Madison  
Morehouse  
Ouachita  
Richland  
Tensas  
Union  
West Carroll

### Region 9

Livingston  
St. Helena  
St. Tammany  
Tangipahoa  
Washington